

THE RECOVERY ACT: IDAHO CLOSE UP

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was created in 1976 to assist low-income families who lacked resources to invest in energy efficiency. Operated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Native American tribes, and U.S. Territories, Weatherization funds are used to accomplish the mission of WAP, *"To reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities, and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety."*

Over 900 local agencies apply energy-efficiency measures to low-income homes using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry. The resulting energy savings help decrease energy costs for the families and our country's dependence on foreign oil.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009, WAP received \$5 billion of funding to expand the current Program and achieve the purposes set forth in the Act. As a result, here is how Weatherization *Works* for Idaho and America!

What does the Recovery Act mean to Idaho?

The Recovery Act will stimulate the state and local economies quickly. Idaho is slated to receive over \$6 billion to invest in public safety, education, infrastructure, healthcare, and energy projects and will save or create jobs while also helping to protect essential state services that Idahoans rely upon every day.

The **Idaho Weatherization Assistance Program** directly benefits from the Recovery Act. Idaho's Weatherization Recovery Act budget is over \$30 million. These additional funds will make a substantial impact for the state and local weatherization program providers. Through November 2009, the Idaho program has:

- created or saved 197 jobs.¹
- purchased 35 U.S.-made vehicles.¹
- purchased 24 blower doors.¹
- purchased 14 insulation blowing machines.¹
- purchased 9 utility trailers.¹
- weatherized 234 homes.¹

IDAHO WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

	State Allocation	Homes Weatherized
DOE Weatherization Recovery Act Funding ²	\$30.34 million	3,113**
Program Year 2009	\$3.36 million	2,203
Program Year 2008	\$1.96 million	1,508
Program Year 2007	\$1.76 million	1,404

WEATHERIZATION FACTS

Average annual energy cost savings per household ³	\$350
Average space heating savings	32%
Energy benefits returned for every \$1 invested ³	\$1.67

How is the Recovery Act Stimulating Idaho's Economy?

Along with purchasing vehicles and equipment from local dealers, Recovery Act dollars are also helping Idaho's six weatherization agencies lease or purchase building and office space in Coeur d'Alene, Caldwell, Jerome, Burley, and Boise.

¹ Data provided by Economic Opportunity Studies Report, "Ready for Recovery: Idaho's Weatherization Program Ramp Up", September 21, 2009 and an Idaho Weatherization Program Update, December 2009.

² The Recovery Act Funding covers three years, from April 2009 through March 2012.

³ ORNL/CON-493, ORNL/CON-484, EIA Annual Energy Outlook for 2009, EIA Short Term Energy Outlook (Feb. 2008).

* Projected Number of Homes Weatherized.

** Projected Number of Homes Weatherized. This projection is based on an increased allowable expenditure per home than in previous years.



Anthony Cox's House of Pressure is used to visually demonstrate Home Performance Testing using Pressure Diagnostics in the new Training Center facility in Boise.

systems or mold and moisture problems are addressed during the weatherization process when necessary. Addressing both energy and non-energy issues not only improves the efficiency of the home, but the overall quality of life for the residents.

For every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization currently returns \$2.73 to the household and society:

- \$1.67 in reduced energy bills
- \$1.06 in non-energy benefits
 - increased local employment
 - improved housing quality
 - better health and safety

Weatherization also reduces national energy consumption and curbs the demand for imported oil. Annually, Weatherization decreases the national consumption by the equivalent of 18 million barrels of oil.



Weatherization truly works for Idaho and America!

For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, visit:

idahocommunityaction.org/Weatherization.html
www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization
www.waptac.org

EERE Information Center
 1-877-EERE-INF (1-877-337-3463)
www.eere.energy.gov/informationcenter

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY** | Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

JANUARY 2010

Please be green! If you need to print this document, please print on recycled paper and use renewable-source ink.

What's Next for Idaho

One of the main resources needed to address the additional Recovery Act work is increasing the overall Auditor/Inspector capacity in Idaho and providing consistent and high quality training close to home.

To address this issue, the Idaho WAP leased a 13,000 sq. ft. warehouse in Boise with classroom space and has turned it into a comprehensive Training Center. The Center has:

- a mobile home for diagnostic test demonstrations in a controlled environment.
- a simulation house wall that has one side made of plexiglass for blown insulation demonstrations.
- a mock-up floor to demonstrate insulation techniques.
- a House of Pressure to emphasize the whole house approach to weatherization.

The Idaho program also contracted **Thomas Brodbeck**, a nationally recognized Weatherization Trainer to develop a comprehensive curriculum that includes classroom and hands-on practice in blower door testing, duct testing, pressure pan and zonal testing, infrared testing, combustion appliance zone testing and safety; and hands-on practice with two-part foam

and dense pack insulation. Two mobile homes and two stick homes were leased for practicing hands-on use of diagnostic tools and to observe weatherization measures completed or to be done on those homes. The one-week training curriculum was limited to 6-8 students per instructor for a better learning experience. Student surveys have been very positive — even staff members who attend the training as a refresher have said they come away learning new techniques or fresh ways of looking at weatherization practices.

With all this in place, Idaho's program goal was to train 30-35 Auditor/Inspectors by September 30, 2009. This goal was accomplished by August 2009 - one month ahead of schedule. Through December 2009, Idaho has trained 63 new hires and existing crew as auditor/inspectors and held a train-the-trainer session.

This new training curriculum imparts an enthusiasm about Weatherization and what can be accomplished in Idaho!

Weatherization Works

Weatherization provides long term solutions to energy and non-energy issues for low-income households. Challenges such as unsafe combustion